

RELIGIOUS INTELLIGENCER.

"BEHOLD I BRING YOU GOOD TIDINGS OF GREAT JOY."

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FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.

BRITISH AND FOREIGN BIBLE SOCIETY.

Thirteenth Report.

Continued from page 404.

The following short notices respecting some of the new establishments in Russia, will not be uninteresting.

The Institution at Cronstadt was formed with a view to supplying the Russian Marine with the Holy Scriptures, and promises to be most beneficial.

Sympherpole, or Ackmechet, (the seat of the Tauridian Society,) is the chief city in the Crimea, situated in the midst of a moral wild, and of a population of 200,000 Mahomedans, and 100,000 Christians and Jews. The Society there was formed on the 12th of June, 1816; and seventy-six Mahomedans, and five Jews, were among the two hundred who became immediate subscribers to it. It has since been joined by the Greek Metropolitan at Sevastopole, another city in the Crimea, with several other persons of distinction, who have engaged to become fellow-labourers with the Committee at Sympherpole, and by every means in their power to further the benevolent object of that Society.

Odessa, which has not been founded more than twenty years, is a flourishing commercial city in the north-west corner of the Black Sea; and, by means of the numerous trading vessels daily frequenting its port, possesses great facilities for conveying the Holy Scriptures into every part of the Mediterranean, the Archipelago, and the coasts of the Black Sea.

The White Russian Auxiliary Society (the denomination of that established at Moghiley) is peculiarly interesting. The sphere of its operation,

together with a population of nearly 900,000, comprises a large division of the Russian army. The Commander in Chief, Prince Barclay de Tolly, with a numerous suite of brave generals and officers, attended its formation, and most cordially co-operated with it. The Chief Priest of the army, who is chosen one of the Directors of the Society, has printed a pastoral address to the officers and men, calling upon them to come forward, each according to his ability, and assist in the good work of the Bible Society; and the Field-Marshal, in a conversation with Mr. Pinkerton, observed, to promote religion in the army, I will give them the Bible. The subscriptions from the military have been considerable.

The Polish Bible Society at Warsaw, also deserves particular mention. Its establishment, after various impediments during two years, has now been accomplished; and for this auspicious event Poland is materially indebted to the benevolence and promptitude of his Majesty the Emperor of Russia, who happily was at Warsaw when Mr. Pinkerton arrived there, and graciously consented to be the Patron of this new Institution. The President of it is Prince Adam Zartorisky.

The scarcity of the Holy Scriptures in Poland is extreme; and your Committee feel great pleasure in stating, that a resolution was adopted by the Polish Bible Society, for immediately printing an edition of 10,000 copies of the Polish New Testament without note or comment, and that they have assisted this desirable undertaking by a grant of £500. The Russian Bible Society immediately presented 500 Polish Testaments to this new Institution, to enable it to commence the work of distributing the Scriptures.

Measures have been adopted for the formation of Bible Societies at Cra-

cow, Cherson, Grodno, Pernau, and Fellen in Livonia.

The various branch Societies noticed in former Reports, are, generally, in a state of progressive activity. The four Committees, at Moscow, Voronez, Theodosia, and Kamentz, were visited by Mr. Pinkerton, who was highly gratified by their zeal and efficiency.

The Report of the Rev. Mr. Paterson, who with the Secretary of the Russian Bible Society made a tour into the East Sea Provinces, is equally favourable with respect to the Branch Societies at Dorpat, Mittau, Riga, Revel, and Arensburg; and from the information presented at the Anniversary of the Russian Bible Society, it appeared, that the divine blessing had accompanied, in an eminent measure, its efforts for the distribution of the Holy Scriptures.

A letter from the Vice-President of the Riga Society communicates the thanks of 300,000 inhabitants of Livonia, for the assistance afforded by the British and Foreign Bible Society, towards completing the Lettonian New Testament. It also adds, that, during the last three years, more Bibles have been demanded and distributed, than, probably, in the thirty years preceding.

Applications have been received by the Moscow Committee, for copies of the New Testament, from Diocesan in the innermost recesses of Siberia.

At Voronez, it has been determined to institute Bible Associations in the thirteen district towns of the province; and numerous copies of the New Testament have been issued by the Committees at Moscow and Voronez, as well as by others for the use of the schools.

Among the information collected by Mr. Pinkerton, in the course of his journey, that relating to the disposition of many of the Jews to receive the New Testament, is particularly interesting. The late wars and commotions on the earth, with the present wonderful exertions to spread the Holy Scriptures among all nations, seem

to have made a deep impression on the minds of many of that people. Your Committee, most anxious to gratify every such disposition, have procured from the Society for Promoting Christianity among the Jews, copies of the Gospels and Acts in Hebrew; and dispatched supplies to the Russian, Polish, and Frankfort Bible Societies.

At a humble village in the midst of the extensive desert of Little Tartary, Mr. Pinkerton had an opportunity of showing the first sheet of the Turkish Bible, and also a part of the Tartar New Testament, to several Effendis and Mollas, titles which designate them to be of the Mahomedan faith. One of the former solicited these sheets; and, having obtained them, read them aloud to a number of the priests and people who followed him; Many intreated to have a copy; and the scene was so striking, that the Count de Maison, Chief Governor of all the Tartars in that quarter, before whose house it had taken place, remarked to Mr. Pinkerton, "Indeed, Sir, these people are prepared for you."

The Persian New Testament has been eagerly sought for, both by Persians and Tartars, and the Calmuc Version of the Gospel is in great demand. In the whole course of his Tour through Russia, Mr. Pinkerton seems every where to have found dispositions most favourable to the object of it; and, on his return to St. Petersburg, he was most cordially welcomed by Prince Galitzin, who conceived that he could not gratify him more than by the information, "that His imperial Majesty was more than ever interested in the cause of the Bible Society." This illustrious Monarch has entered into the views of that Institution with a zeal most honourable to his patriotism, benevolence, and piety. He has bestowed on it substantial, and even munificent proofs of his regard; and the Committee of the Russian Bible Society have their depository and printing office in a large and commodious house, the gift of His

Imperial Majesty. Whatever aid is wanting to render the blessings of the Bible universal in his wide dominions, he has shown himself on all occasions ready to grant; and he has, in particular, urged augmented expedition, in completing the translation and printing of the whole Bible in the Vernacular Russian, with the most liberal offers of support and assistance.

With sentiments of profound respect and gratitude to the Emperor of all the Russias, your Committee have only to express their hope, that in the increased happiness of his subjects, in consequence of that moral and religious improvement which his Majesty is so anxiously labouring to promote, he will find an augmentation of his own.

It may be further noticed, in this place, that his Imperial Majesty has honoured the Bible Society in Finland with the assurance of his continued favour, and has encouraged its exertions in printing the quarto edition of the Finnish Bible, by the loan of a considerable sum, free of interest for five years. The Finnish Bible in Octavo has been completed; and the Society in Finland is now enabled to commence the distribution of the Scriptures on an extensive scale. The highly respectable Bishop of Finland, as well as his Excellency, the Governor-General, have been unremitting in their exertions to promote the object of the Bible Society there, both by precept and example; and this Institution has proved a real blessing to the inhabitants of that country.

The following brief statement will exhibit the progress of the Russian Bible Society, in printing the Holy Scriptures. The number of copies which had issued from the press, at the period of its Third Anniversary, was 87,100. The calculation for 1817, amounts to 69,000 copies, that for 1818, to 105,000; and it is hoped that this number will be increased, in proportion to the skill acquired in stereotype printing, and the demands for copies.

The Holy Scriptures are now circulating in twenty-five different languages;

and among the new dialects in which it is proposed to print them, are the following: a Turkish edition of the New Testament in the Armenian character, for the use of the Armenians, who read only Turkish; a Wallachian Bible, and a New Testament, in the Bulgarian, into which it is to be translated. It is also in contemplation to procure a Version of the New Testament into the dialects of the Burjats, (which is that of the Mongolian tribes in general,) at the particular request of that people, accompanied by repeated subscriptions.

Your Committee cannot conclude this branch of their Report, without adverting to two documents which have been published. The first, a letter addressed to the President of the British and Foreign Bible Society by Prince Galitzin, which will be perused with sentiments of the highest esteem, veneration, and affection, for the illustrious writer. The other, the address of the Archbishop of Moscow, at its Third Anniversary, in which he displayed, in striking colors, "the wonderful love of God to our generation, who, when infidelity, with all its train of iniquities, and wars, and confusion, and desolations, had deluged the land of Christendom with the blood of its inhabitants, was pleased, amid this awful scene of human woe, to raise up shining witnesses to the truth, by the establishment of Bible Societies in so many different nations, and to crown their exertions with such distinguished success, in disseminating the glorious Gospel of mercy and peace."

Your Committee have now to notice a few miscellaneous articles of information, in the European Department of their Report.

The situation of Malta has proved very convenient as a depot for the Scriptures, from which they have been extensively disseminated in various languages. Copies of the Modern Greek New Testament have been circulated by the Bishop of Janina among his own people, and at Candia, Cyprus, Rhodes, and other places;

and many applications for them have been received by him, from distant parts. "It never happens," says the Bishop, "when we meet on the Sabbath Day in our place of worship, that we are not excited to pray for the British and Foreign Bible Society, that it may extend its labours of love."

Your Committee have to acknowledge their obligations to Admiral Sir Cha's Penrose, Commander-in-Chief in the Mediterranean, for his readiness to assist the dispersion of the Holy Scriptures among the Ionian Islands, and other places visited by the ships under his command.

The attention of your Committee to supply the Danish Contingent at Valentiennes, with the Scriptures, through the agency of their Chaplain, has been thankfully acknowledged by the Commander in Chief, his Highness Frederick Prince of Hesse, in the name and by the desire, of his Danish Majesty.

The information from Madeira, respecting the distribution of the Portuguese New Testament in that island, is very satisfactory. The Roman Catholic clergy there, who, for the most part, possess copies of it, so far from discountenancing the circulation of the New Testament, encourage the purchase of it; and much disappointment has been frequently expressed by the inhabitants, that they cannot obtain the whole Bible in their own language.

A large assortment of Spanish and Italian New Testaments has been sent to Gibraltar, for distribution.

The transactions in America, as connected with the object of the British and Foreign Bible Society, have ever been viewed by your Committee with peculiar interest. It is therefore with no small satisfaction that they are enabled to announce the establishment of a General National Institution, on that Continent, under the denomination of "The American Bible Society."

Your Committee cannot deny themselves the pleasure of quoting the following extract, from the Address of

the American Society to the people of the United States, as expressive of sentiments which are equally recognized and felt by the Members of the British and Foreign Bible Society.

"No spectacle can be so illustrious in itself, so touching to man, or so grateful to God, as a nation pouring forth its devotion, its talents, and its treasures, for that kingdom of the Saviour, which is righteousness and peace.

"If there be a single measure which can over-rule objection, subdue opposition, and command exertion; this is the measure.

"That all our voices, all our affections, and all our hands, should be joined in the grand design of promoting "peace on earth, and good will toward men;" that they should resist the advance of misery, should carry the light of instruction into the dominions of ignorance, and the balm of joy to the soul of anguish, and all this by diffusing the oracles of God; addresses to the understanding an argument which cannot be encountered, and to the heart an appeal which its holiest emotions rise up to second.

"Under such impressions, and with such views, fathers, brethren, fellow-citizens, the American Bible Society has been formed."

Your Committee have had the pleasure to offer to the new Institution a testimony of their esteem and good wishes, by a Donation of £500.

Your Committee have further aided the operations of this National Institution, by the offer of a duplicate set of stereotype plates for the French Bible, at prime cost, dividing the expence of the composition between the two Societies. This offer has been thankfully accepted by the American Bible Society, as it will enable it immediately to supply the numerous French inhabitants of that Continent, with the whole Bible in their vernacular tongue.

The accession of the American Bible Societies, as Auxiliaries to the National Society, is considerable and increasing; the number, within eight months after its foundation, amounted to seventy.—(Now 118.)

The following brief statement, from the Committee of the Louisiana Bible Society, will be heard with interest.

"Numerous applications have been made for Bibles, by the free people of colour; the Catholics, even the strictest of them, are willing, with scarcely an exception, to receive and read the Bible. The Spanish inhabitants have been remarkably pleased by obtaining the New Testament in their native language, and have received it with demonstrations of joy; and some slaves, who were able to read, have been gratified with copies.

"The first 1000 Spanish Testaments, furnished to the above Society, by the British and Foreign Bible Society, were just distributed as the second donation of the like number arrived.

Your Committee, upon receiving this information, immediately ordered a further supply of 1000 copies to be placed at the disposal of the Committee of the Louisiana Bible Society.

Your Committee, in concluding the division of their Report, have only to express their cordial esteem for the sister Institution in America, with an assurance, that the members of the British and Foreign Bible Society will ever most cordially rejoice in its success. *(To be continued.)*

Extracts of Correspondence.

From the Rev. D. Dickson, Secretary to the Edinburgh Missionary Society. West Kirk, Edinburgh, April 22, 1817.

The Directors can never forget, that it was owing to the aid afforded them by the British and Foreign Bible Society, that they were enabled to print the Turkish Tartar New Testament at Karass; and cannot, therefore but view your committee as having been instrumental in proving this best of all gifts for the numerous individuals, Mahomedans, Heathen, Armenians, Greeks, and Jews; among whom it has already been distributed throughout a vast extent of country, till then almost wholly unilluminated by a single ray of divine truth.

The intelligence which the Directors have lately received from the Crimea in particular, so immediately following the peculiarly interesting accounts of Mr. Pinkerton's visit to that peninsula, is such as to lead to anticipations the most animating and delightful. Mr. Paterson, (Missionary at Karas) spent the most of the month of June there, and, wherever he went, whether to cities, towns, or villages, or to the residence of the Tartars in the more open places of the country, the reception which he, and the object of his visit, the distribution of copies of the New Testament, met with, were the same. The interest, as well as readiness, with which every class of the population, and of every different religion, received copies and read them, and with which they listened to Mr. Paterson's explanations of Christian doctrine; and the regret which they expressed when he had no more copies to give away, and was obliged to separate from them, he describes as having perpetually excited his gratitude; and called forth his praise to that God whose precious revelation he was communicating to them. Though his health suffered considerably during his journey, his spirits were continually revived by the scenes presented to him. Wherever he halted, he was surrounded by multitudes of people, pressing with eagerness for copies of the word of Life; disappointed if their wishes were not instantly complied with, and not to be repulsed till they gained the object which they had in view. Sometimes from the top of the cart on which he rode in the market places of the towns, or in the midst of an open place, he would stand for hours together, talking to the listening and wondering people, concerning the great truths contained in the Sacred Volume, which he was about to put into their hands. At other times, he would sit in the midst of a group at the foot of a tree, and read to them portions of the Scriptures, unfolding their meaning as he went along; addressing them on the value of their

souls; or replying to the questions and objections, which were suggested to them by what he said.

From a Capuchin Monk in the North of Germany.

The day before yesterday I was agreeably surprised, in my monastic retirement, by the unexpected appearance of our friend N., who entered my cell, full of joy, exclaiming, A letter from London! I seized it, and received from its contents the pleasing information, that the revered Bible Society in London had granted us a generous donation of £50, for which I beg leave to return the sincerest thanks of all pious Christians. Indeed, I was so affected with this gift, that I felt constrained publicly to announce it in our church; and fervently implored our Divine Saviour to shower down his richest blessings on these our benefactors, and to reward them, both in time and eternity, for the good they have done to us. It affords me real satisfaction to tell you, that the Bible, this truly divine book, is now read by hundreds and by thousands, with devout attention and cordial joy. It may even go farther; and assert, that many, with whose spiritual state I am intimately acquainted, are deeply penetrated with its sacred truths, and faithfully endeavour to regulate their life accordingly. I met lately with a remarkable instance of conversion. A man of learning, who by the constant perusal of the works of Voltaire, Rousseau, D'Alembert, &c. had been almost entirely corrupted, both in mind and body, and lived for these 36 years past in this world, without God, without Christ, without any sense of religion, has been completely transformed into another man, by the powerful operating grace of our divine Saviour, and has given, in the course of the last year, the most satisfactory evidences of a genuine conversion. "By their fruits ye shall know them." He now diligently reads the Bible, to which I most earnestly called his attention; and you can scarcely conceive the joy and delight with

which he accepted the Sacred Volume at my hands. This morning, another gentleman met me on horseback, and, in the public road, expressed to me the great joy which he felt in a diligent and devout perusal of the Holy Writings. I might mention many similar instances, if time did permit: let me therefore add, that, by the grace of God, I have induced many parish ministers and schoolmasters, both in town and the country, to introduce the New-Testament into their congregations and schools. The consequences are not to be calculated. We shall soon be enabled to supply most of our parishes with copies of the same. Thus, you see, my respected friend, how extensively the eternal God, the kindest Father of the children of men, is spreading among us the blessings of the Gospel of his Son.

From Letters addressed to a Roman Catholic Clergyman, by a Clergyman of the same Church. Feb. 20, 1817.

To the glory of God, we are constrained to say, that many read the word of God with joy, and derive from it, according to the measure of their understanding, comfort and encouragement, so as to excite in others, both in and out of our parish, to emulation. Several heads of families have declared, that they could not now live without the Gospel. People come from neighbouring towns and villages, to fetch New Testaments; and we confidently hope, that the word of God will, at last, leaven the whole lump.

The following anecdote may serve to illustrate its effect:

About three months ago, a man, whose name is *Anthony S.*, came from a neighbouring parish, on a visit to a family here, where a pious young woman of twenty, named *Francisca*, used to read the New Testament to the rest. Antony listened also, but laughed, and derided it. After some time, he paid another visit, heard again, but scoffed and blasphemed, particularly at the passage, John iii. 16. Perceiving that the young reader rose much-grieved, and shut up the book, he said, "I beg

your pardon, I did not mean to offend you; but I do not believe either in this Book, or in the Priest's; the whole is a lie," &c. (Isa. lix. 20.) Francisca answered, in a solemn tone, "You do not offend me, but God; whoever offends this Book, offends God himself; for, it is the word of God. But that you may not sin still more grievously, I will go away." (Matt. vii. 6.) She took the New Testament, went into her closet, full of sorrow, wept, and prayed, "Lord, lay it not to his charge, but graciously open his eyes." Antony went away, but could not get the New Testament out of his mind, either by day or by night. Once, awaking out of a dream, it suddenly struck like lightning into his soul: "What have I done? I have uttered blasphemies against the word of God!" His conscience was roused; he had no rest, and determined to return, beg pardon, and recant. This he did, the very next Saturday. The first person whom he met, was Francisca, whom he asked, whether she still had the New Testament; "Yes," answered she, "but not for you." Antony, the man who had formerly been so hardened, now, began, in the most affecting manner, with tears, to ask pardon for his profaneness, and told her how the Lord had convinced him of his sin. Francisca gave him her New Testament, in which he read for days together. Soon after he came as a heavy laden sinner to us; and that very passage which he had ridiculed, became the balm to his wounds, and the solace of his troubled heart.

CALCUTTA.

First Circular Letter of the Corresponding Committee of the Church Missionary Society in Calcutta.

This letter will convey a general view of the Society's Mission in the North of India. Plans so well calculated to improve and enlarge the native mind, will meet the approbation of all who pray for the salvation of the heathen.

The Committee, formed in Calcutta as an auxiliary, to promote the ob-

jects of the Church Missionary Society, circulate among the friends of that Institution the following brief statement of their engagements and plans. As the funds with which they are entrusted have been lately increased so as to enable them to extend their operations, and new scenes of labour are opening upon them which require new exertions, they are anxious that their Proceedings should be generally known; in order that all, who approve of their plans, and who wish to co-operate with the Church Missionary Society in India, may be excited to give aid, by their contributions, their counsels, and their prayers.

In the present outline the Committee will follow the obvious distribution of Missionary labour into its three branches, of Schools, Tracts, and Missionary Establishments.

I. The establishment of SCHOOLS is of itself a department of extensive and growing importance. It is difficult to appreciate the benefits which might be conferred on the Natives by a number of good schools diffused through the country. The Committee's first attention was naturally directed to this quarter. Assured that reformation is most wisely attempted by the instruction of youth, they have been careful to establish schools, according to their means and opportunities. A large part of their funds is appropriated to the support of Schools at Agra, Meerut, Chunar, Burdwan, and Kidderpore. In these Schools, masters are employed to teach both the European and Native Languages. The Committee wish to enlarge their labours in this department; and will gladly do so, if the liberality of the public shall enable them.

Of the places above mentioned, they have—

At Agra—two Schools, under the care of Abdool Messeeh:

At Meerut—one, Reverend Mr. Fisher:

At Chunar—three, Mr. Bowley:

At Burdwan—two, Lieutenant Stuart:

At Kidderpoor—two, Reverend Mr. Greenwood.

The children under instruction in these schools are about 500.

2. In the department of TRACTS, the objects of the Committee will be, to prepare and to print such books as may be necessary, to supply the Schools and Churches of Native Christians, or to distribute amongst the Natives in general; such as, Extracts from the Scriptures, Prayer Books, Catechisms, Spelling-Books, Tracts on the Evidences of Christianity, &c.

They have printed an edition of Extracts from the Common-Prayer Book in Hindoostanee, and the Epistle to the Romans in the same language, which have been found of great use at Agra, Chunar, and elsewhere; and a small Catechism, adapted to the Native Schools and Catechumens.

The Committee earnestly invite all those who are practically acquainted with Native Schools, to furnish them with such remarks as may occur in the course of their labours, tending to facilitate the communication of useful knowledge. The difficulty of conducting Native Schools with success, can only be appreciated by those who have fairly attempted it.

The Committee cannot but entertain a hope, too, that some of their friends may possess sufficient leisure to undertake the labour of composing or compiling Books of Instruction; to be contributed to the general stock, translated into the various languages, and then introduced into the Schools, or circulated for general use. In the very arduous attempt to diffuse knowledge among a large mass of benighted people, no extensive good can be hoped for, without the concurrent labours of MANY. Let all who desire to promote the best interests of their fellow-creatures, contribute their mite of labour and experience.

3. In adverting to the department of MISSIONARIES, the Committee have great pleasure in reporting the commencement of a Missionary establishment at Garden Reach. An estate has been purchased there for the sum

of 12,000 rupees, in the purchase of which they have been actuated by the vicinity of the spot to their Kidderpoor School; by its situation also near several large Native villages, in a quarter yet unoccupied by Missionaries; and by the facility with which it can be visited by the Committee, being on the same side of the river, and little more than four miles from Calcutta.

Two Missionaries sent out by the Church Missionary Society have been received into the Mission House during the last year, the Rev. Messrs. Greenwood and Schroeter. The former is an English Clergyman. The latter is a Lutheran Minister, received by the Church Missionary Society from the seminary at Berlin, and educated in England.

The Rev. Mr. Greenwood at present occupies the House, having under his charge the School at Kidderpoor, and also a class of Hindoostanee children, clothed and educated by the Committee. The Committee cannot but regard this Infant Establishment as the beginning of an enlarged plan of operations for the benefit of the Natives. They look forward to an accession of labourers from England; and hope to see the neighbourhood of their Mission House well supplied from the Establishment of Kidderpoor with efficient Teachers. They would speak with moderation, however, even of their hopes; as they are sensible of the many obstacles which oppose plans of this nature, and how necessary it is to proceed with the utmost caution and circumspection in all their movements.

The Rev. Mr. Schroeter, the other Missionary, has been lately removed by the Committee to the borders of the country towards Nepal; a place which seemed to offer a desirable sphere of Missionary exertion.

Having mentioned their European Missionaries, the Committee have next to report the continuance of their faithful reader, Abdool Messeeh, in health and active labour at Agra. The journals of Abdool, which have been

circulated during the last two years, bear ample testimony to his zeal and prudence in the service of Him whose name he bears, as well as to the success with which it hath pleased God to bless his labours. It was to be expected, that, after the departure of its friend and father, the Rev. Mr. Corrie, the infant Mission at Agra, should droop. Every one, conversant with the Native character and the influence of an European Superintendant, will easily conceive, that even such a man as Abdool must have sorely felt the loss of such a guide, and counsellor, and patron, as Mr. Corrie. When Mr. Corrie left India for the benefit of his health, sensible of the dangers to which an unprotected Native flock must be exposed, he used the wise precaution of distributing the more learned and efficient members of the Church in different parts of the country, as Readers, and School masters, and Moonshees, under the patronage of such friends as were disposed to take charge of them; so that the Native Christian Society at Agra may be said to have been, in a manner, broken up at his departure. The Committee, however, record with great thankfulness, that the reports from that place, through a zealous friend and correspondent, lately stationed at Agra, and actively employed in superintending the Schools there, afford the best hopes that the Gospel is not preached in vain. Abdool continues to bear a faithful testimony to the truth, and to watch over the little flock committed to his charge.

Mr. Bowley, formerly stationed at Agra, has been for the last eighteen months usefully employed by the Committee at Chunar. He is an indefatigable Catechist and Reader; and continues the same simple, steady, laborious course, which is so apparent in the Journals recently distributed amongst the subscribers to the Church Mission.

In addition to the readers above mentioned, the Committee also employ Ananderaya, a converted Brahmin;

who preaches to his countrymen in the neighbourhood of Vizagapatam, and has been an useful assistant in the Telinga Schools.

From the above statement it will be seen, that, in whatever manner Missionary work may be promoted, whether by Schools, or Tracts, or Readers, or Missionaries, whether by European or Native Instruments; the Committee are happy to avail themselves of every opening, to adopt every wise expedient, and to meet every demand as far as their circumstances will admit. Establishments of this nature cannot, however, be suitably maintained, still less can they be enlarged, without liberal aid from the public. Their present engagements are supported partly by an annual grant of £1500 from the Church Missionary Society at home, and partly by monthly subscriptions in India. The amount of the latter scarcely averages 200 rupees per month. The growing prospects of labour demand more extended contributions; and the Committee earnestly invite their friends to assist them in this good cause.

They are peculiarly solicitous to extend their efforts in Education, and propose to obtain from England an ordained School-Master, to be maintained by the funds of the Society. A well conducted School, according to the principles of the Church of England, is greatly wanted; and would not only render effectual service to the funds of the Mission, but would be the means of raising up labourers, who may hereafter be distributed advantageously in the country.

After this brief sketch of their proceedings and views, the Committee now entrust the important cause to the liberality of their friends and the blessing of God.

Signed by the Committee,

G. UDNY.

J. W. SHERER.

Rev. J. PARSON.

Rev. T. ROBERTSON.

Rev. T. THOMASON, Secy.

Calcutta, Feb. 2, 1817.

RELIGIOUS TRACTS,

The following method of distributing Tracts, adopted by an Auxiliary Tract Society in Liverpool, is worthy of imitation.

Extract from the Report.

From the charge laid upon them at the last Anniversary, your Committee lost no time, but proceeded at once to look out for channels in which to circulate the streams of your bounty. The borough jail was amongst the first of these channels: and when the leisure and character of its unhappy inmates were taken into account, it was thought proper to furnish them with bound sets of the Tracts: accordingly two copies of the entire publications of the Society are now in the hands of the debtors, and one copy, besides single Tracts, amongst the felons. This measure cannot fail to meet with your cordial approbation, since every one must be aware that the legal measures of the executive, however well intended, have not that *moral* tendency which improves those they *imprison*. They require to be salted with something more spiritual than *law*, in order to prove salutary to the *lawless*. In bringing, therefore, the solemnities of eternity to bear along with the sanctions of jurisprudence, you are aiding at once the cause of God and of the country; enthroning patriotism upon the high sympathies of religious zeal, and expressing, in one act, loyalty to the king, and "*to the King eternal.*"

"Your Committee had bound sets of their Religious Tracts, (in six volumes,) placed in the cabins of the Dublin and Newry Packets, in the Steam Packets upon the Mersey, and in the Wigan Canal Boats.

The Committee are happy to inform this meeting, that the Captains of the Dublin Packets have kindly engaged to circulate Tracts amongst their passengers, and are now employed in doing "business for us in the great waters."

The Committee have found much pleasure in circulating Tracts amongst the houseless seamen, amongst the market people, and about the docks.

They have also found a valuable auxiliary in a recently formed Society for visiting the sick and the poor. Some of the Visitors enter fully into your views, and will render their Society the medium of conveying the healing leaves of the tree of life to the forlorn and destitute.

Your Committee have only to add, that upwards of 13,300 Tracts have been circulated by them in the course of the past year.

We are aware that to some it will appear strange to lay so much stress upon Tracts. Engines apparently insignificant are not likely to commend themselves as effective means of usefulness. And as men in general judge from appearances, many will suppose that Tracts are as low in the scale of means, as they are in the scale of money. Looking at their puny body, and not at their powerful spirit, they come thus to be underrated.

But were your Committee allowed, they do not think it impossible to prove that Tract Societies form a *new era* in the history of knowledge and of faith.

Whilst religious instruction was confined to folios and quartos; whilst it existed only in bodies of divinity and learned dissertations on Morals, books were too dear to be purchased, and too long to be read generally; the consequence was, that knowledge was a fountain sealed to that part of the community who needed it most. Fifty years ago, an author would have been ashamed of a book in behalf of Christianity, which was not as heavy as his writing desk; but now "we are not ashamed of the day of small things," because it is the day of great effects, and bearing successfully upon that class who cannot digest folios, nor follow out logical demonstrations. And as this class is too numerous to be neglected, we cannot do better than furnish them with such food as they can bear; and thus we shall pave the way for the use of strong meat; for experience has proved, that Tracts should have been *first*, and folios *last*, in the discipline of the public mind. And

this discovery, though late, is not too late to be useful. Upon such grounds, therefore, your Committee account for their opinions and their practices in regard to Religious Tracts.

DOMESTIC INTELLIGENCE.

The last annual Report of the Treasurer of the Female Foreign Mission Society of New Haven, with the Remarks accompanying it. Published by request of the Society.

1816. Received at sundry times from annual subscriptions,	\$14 50
1817. From June to Sept. 1st. from individuals at different times in donations,	7 50
Making in the whole,	52
May 13, 1817. Paid to J. Everts, Esq. Treasurer of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions,	50
Remaining in the Treasury,	2

By this Report, the Society will see that the amount of the subscriptions and donations, for the last year, are less than during any *preceding* year. It is to be regretted that *less* interest should have been manifested by us for the salvation of the Heathen, when *so much* is still doing in other parts of the world, and so much is *needed* to be done. The object cannot be *less* important; it is in fact becoming more so. The encouragement already given us in the *success* of the missionaries among those miserable beings who live in guilt and die in darkness, ought to stimulate to more active zeal in their behalf. It is suggested by an experienced missionary, that the principle cause of the failure of missionary efforts, in several instances, has been, the want of proper pecuniary support from Societies at home. Though this Society is small and can do but *little*, yet let us remember the widow's *mite*, and not withhold that *little*, because it is *little*. The Lord is furnishing missionaries and opening a wide field for their labours, and to us is the privilege given, to feed and clothe them for Christ's sake. If we realize the value of our

religious privileges, and contrast our situation with that of those who are famishing for the bread of life, we shall not willingly withhold the means requisite to their possessing, in some small degree, the same privileges.

Experience has proved the *utility* of missions. At the commencement of this Society, we could only look to Him who sees the end from the beginning, for a blessing on our efforts. Our expectations are already more than realized. Obstacles insurmountable (except to the eye of faith) are removed, difficulties overcome, and the great struggle has ended in the prosperous establishment of missions in heathen countries; through the influence of which many are renouncing their idols and rejoicing in the knowledge of the only living and true God. The number of missionaries is also increasing, and consequently increasing exertions are imperiously demanded. The *present* is not a time, then, to slacken our exertions or remit our charities. Let us go forward in dependence on Him whose cause we espouse, and as a testimony of gratitude to Him who maketh our cup of spiritual blessings to overflow, contribute with increased liberality to this important object. Like Mary, who did what she could to express her attachment to Jesus, and her infinite obligations to him, so let it be spoken of each individual of this Society wherever the Gospel is preached in heathen lands, as a memorial of her—*"She hath done what she could."* What higher encomium could be bestowed; what more exalted honour could we aspire to; what nobler service can we be employed in; than to do what we can for our Lord and Master, who accepts even a cup of *water*, if given to a disciple in the name of a disciple.

From the Commercial Advertiser.

Pursuant to public notice, a meeting of the AUXILIARY NEW-YORK BIBLE SOCIETY was held last evening, at the City Assembly Room, which Mr. Jennings had generously volunteered and lighted for the occasion.

Notwithstanding the tempestuousness of the evening, a numerous and highly respectable audience assembled at an early hour, among whom we recognized with peculiar pleasure, the Rev. Mr. MORTIMER, Rev. Dr. MASON, Rev. Dr. ROMEYN, Rev. Mr. MILNOR, Rev. Mr. JONES, Rev. Mr. M'LEOD, General CLARKSON, 1st Vice President of the American Bible Society, and many of the Directors of that institution. Indisposition in the family of the President preventing his attendance, Mr. FRANCIS HALL, one of the Vice Presidents, took the Chair.

The business of the evening was introduced with the reading of a portion of the Holy Scriptures, by the Rev. Mr. Milnor. The annual Report of the Board of Directors was then read, from which it appears that upwards of eight hundred dollars had been distributed during the past year, in Bibles and Testaments; some in English and some in French; that a considerable portion of them had found their way into the Sunday Schools, and that the exertions of the Board had exhausted the funds of the Society.

After the report was read, the Rev. Dr. Romeyn rose, and prefaced the motion he was about to make, by some striking and appropriate comments on the nature of the association; its necessity and its utility. He noticed the influence the Bible has exercised in raising woman from the degraded station she formerly held to her present elevation, as our solace in sorrow, and partner in joy; as the rallying point in virtue, and the incentive to the fulfillment of our social and political duties.—The Rev. Speaker next adverted to the death of *Josias H. Coggeshall*, Esquire, late our first Vice President, and closed by moving that the Report be accepted and that 500 copies be printed for distribution. The motion was seconded by the Rev. Mr. M'Leod, in a short but solemn appeal; and was unanimously adopted.

Dr. Romeyn then moved that the thanks of the Society be presented to the Board of Directors for their atten-

tion, during the past year, to the objects and interests of the Society.—

He preceded his motion by some congratulatory expressions on the delightful spectacle then exhibited, of Christians of different persuasions, assembled for the same object, and combining to promote the great cause; the distribution of the Bible. Frankly avowing his own sentiments, he abjured every idea of intolerance as pernicious to the cause he espoused, and as insulting to the Being he revered.

This motion was seconded by the Rev. Dr. Mason, whose address was full of energy and precision of expression. He portrayed the instrumentality of God's Providence in making the march of man to virtue and happiness commensurate with his regard to the Bible.—He sketched the great historical æras of religious darkness and light, and gave in full relief the importance of man's exertions, when employing his own instruments—idolatry—fanaticism—PHILOSOPHY. He then adverted to the pestilence diffused by the French Revolution, and presented the miraculous phenomenon recently exhibited in Europe, of a continent rearing itself from amidst the pollution of the vilest irreligion, and exhibiting, as in the twinkling of an eye, an immense moral machinery to diffuse that Bible it contemned, and those doctrines it trampled upon. He compared with beauty and emphasis, that stupendous machinery and its component parts, to the heart and arteries of the human body, alternately imparting and recovering life, blood and vigor; creating a God-like harmony to shake the corruptions of the whole, and to regenerate it.—We could dilate—suffice it however, to say, that we pity the heart that was not warmed, and the mind that was not stimulated by his eloquence.

The motion was unanimously adopted. A collection was then made, and the names of the officers for the ensuing year being read, the society adjourned.

H. W. WARNER, President.

WM. C. MULLIGAN, Corresp. Sec'y

A Letter from the Rev. Mr. Shepard, Missionary in Georgia, to the Editor of the Boston Recorder, dated, Washington, Geo. Oct. 14, 1817.

MY DEAR FRIEND—Ere this, you have doubtless heard of the fatal sickness which has spread its ravages through this part of our country. It is indeed a time of weeping and lamentation among us. The hand of death has snatched from us many of our most useful citizens. The immense rains which fell during the summer months, produced many stagnant pools, and a very luxuriant vegetable growth;—these being acted upon by the dry and scorching autumnal sun, prepared the way for the prevalence of bilious fevers of the most malignant kind. Charleston, Beaufort, Camden, Augusta, and Louisville, have been the most severely visited by sickness. But the fever has not confined itself to cities; many of the lower and upper counties in this State have suffered much from its ravages. It has been most fatal to people who have lately come from the North.—Several young men of this class have fallen victims to the destroyer in Augusta and Louisville. On the 19th of Sept. we were called to pay our last respects to the remains of Miss ELECTA STORRS, an assistant teacher in Mount Zion Institution. This much lamented young lady came out with the Rev. Mr. BEMAN, the Rector of the Institution, in the fall of 1816, and took the charge of his female department; which station she continued to fill with much satisfaction to her employer and pupils, until the hand of disease was laid upon her. Early in life, she devoted herself to the service of her Lord and Master. In exchanging the dear circle of her relatives and friends, for a few years residence in this distant clime, she had no other inducement than that of building up the Redeemer's kingdom. To this object she was supremely devoted. By her friendly counsels, fervent prayers, and flowing tears, she laboured to awaken in the young and tender minds of her pupils, a just sense of the importance of an

interest in the merits of a crucified Saviour. The success of her labours which had been continued for about nine months was highly encouraging. But in the midst of all her flattering prospects she was arrested by the pale messenger. Mysterious are the ways of Providence. Once more have we been taught, that the Lord's "ways are not as our ways, nor his thoughts as our thoughts."

Her last illness which was long and painful, our departed friend bore with Christian resignation. From its commencement, she was impressed with an idea that it would be her last, and consequently directed her thoughts to Him who has promised to be with his followers "even to the end." Here she found consolation. She conversed frequently and calmly on the subject of death, was much concerned and much in prayer for her dear pupils; retained her reason until the last, and died in the full possession of that blessed hope, which is an anchor to the soul, sure and steadfast. About two weeks after the death of Miss Storrs, we were again clothed in sackcloth at the melancholy tidings of the death of Dr. FINLEY, President of the University of Georgia. The particulars of the death of this worthy man, you probably have received. He died on the 3d inst. after a lingering illness of about three weeks. No death was ever more deeply felt, or more generally lamented in this region than this. To this State the loss seems irreparable. The success which attended the few months of his presidency, gave us the most animating hope, that Providence had designed him as an eminent instrument for advancing the literary and religious state of Georgia. His plans of operation were laid with much skill, and executed with a zeal highly becoming a man in so important a station. It was in a tour through the lower counties for the purpose of soliciting donations, to procure a library for the College, that he took the seeds of the disease which terminated his valuable life. A dark cloud now hangs over the affairs of the

Seminary ; but we hope it will soon be succeeded by a clearer sky. We know that He whose "kingdom ruleth over all," will perfect his own work, in his own time and in his own manner.

The rising state of literature in this country no doubt will induce the board to renew their exertions for the prosperity of their rising seminary, in selecting another man without delay, to fill the important station now left vacant.

The present state of literature in Georgia is highly encouraging. Much has been done within a few years past for the education of youth. It has been a principle object with me, in my travels through the State, to visit such schools and academies as lay in my way, and the result has been highly gratifying. Mount Zion Institution under the care of the Rev. Mr. Beman, has at present 160 students. Ten or twelve of these have entered upon such studies as are pursued in the northern colleges.—About thirty five are advancing in a course preparatory to this department, the remainder are pursuing such English studies as are calculated to fit them for the common employment of life. Powelton Academy, Mr. Ira Ingraham, Rector, is in a flourishing state. Its present number of students is I believe about 125. In the female department of this seminary, Miss Stebbins, recently from Boston, has been highly useful. In Etonton, Putnam county, there is a flourishing Academy under the direction of Mr. Church ; number of students about the same as at Powelton. In Washington, Wilke's county, Mr. Orson Douglas has a rising seminary of about 100 students under his care. The three last young men are graduates of Middlebury College, Vermont, and are preparing for the gospel ministry. There are several other Academies of note in the different parts of the State with which I am not so well acquainted. Numbers in the upper country are just coming into operation. There is a great call for qualified instructors. Those that are competent to unite *preaching* with *teaching*, are generally preferred.—

Young men qualified to act in this capacity would meet with good encouragement, and be highly useful by settling in this State.

With respect to the progress of religion in this country, I am sorry I cannot speak as favourable. There is a great want of faithful preachers. Many churches are almost entirely destitute of the preached word. Others have it occasionally. Some exertions however have recently been made to remedy this evil. The Hopewell Presbytery have taken measures to employ an itinerant preacher within their bounds. A society of ladies in Savannah, I am informed, are about to send out a missionary to ride in the interior of the State, during the present season. But I fear that these good exertions will be much retarded on account of the difficulty of obtaining suitable laborers. Our Baptist and Methodist brethren deserve much credit for their unwearied exertions to disseminate the gospel, but after all—"much ground remains to be possessed." We do not despair of the ultimate success of the gospel throughout this southern portion of our country. We are much encouraged by the formation of a number of benevolent societies in different sections of the state. Bible Societies have recently been formed in Waynesboro', Louisville, and Lexington. Tract Societies have also been formed in the two first mentioned places, and also in Augusta, Washington, and Mount Zion. Sunday Schools have been established during the past season, in Savannah and Augusta. The inhabitants of Liberty county, have lately instituted regular free schools throughout their county. And what is very pleasing to state, a number of ladies in this county, have formed a Society auxiliary to the American Society, for educating pious young men for the gospel ministry. Between two and three hundred dollars have been collected by their diligent efforts for this benevolent object. These things inspire the hope that the night is far spent and that the day is at hand. O that the Lord would grant us a few

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such showers of grace, as he has been pleased to pour out on many parts of New England. Dear brother, pray for us.
Yours, &c.

THOMAS SHEPARD.

The Synod of Ohio, at their last Session expressed their sense of the importance of *Sunday Schools*; and advise the establishment of them wherever practicable. The Synod moreover "recommend to all serious minded persons, that they consecrate a few hours of the Sabbath to the noble object of instructing children and youth in neighbourhoods and settlements, where Societies cannot be formed—and as two mothers in Israel may be said to have originated these schools, the one in Europe, and the other in America, their example may be commendably followed by many of their sex.—*Rel. Remembrancer*."

For the Religious Intelligencer.

PEACE OFFERINGS.

It was pleasant to the souls of Christians to observe, in some of the periodical papers, soon after the commencement of the present National Peace, interesting accounts of "Peace Offerings," consisting of liberal donations to promote the cause of the Prince of Peace. Similar pleasure has resulted from news of charitable and beneficent efforts made by some societies, as their voluntary and joyful method of celebrating the memorable 4th day of July. *If the Son therefore make you free ye shall be free indeed.* Nor have all Christians been wanting in their efforts to advance the *Kingdom which is not of this world*; by freely giving a portion of their worldly substance, in connection with the public services on Thanksgiving days. Would it not be for the glory of God, the benefit of many of the human family, and our own increasing joy, if in those congregations, generally, where annual Thanksgivings are observed, public contributions be made or some charitable united exertions to extend the blessings of the Gospel.

Come, American Christians, let us not be weary in well doing. Let us more and more experience the proof of the precious Saviour's words—"It is more blessed to give than to receive." Let us with the Religious Intelligencer follow angelic examples, and "bring good tidings of great joy" to such as need to know the joyful sound. Then with Paul may we say, "Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift"—and with angels sing "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will towards men."

LAST THOUGHTS OF T. H.

I am in sentiment Calvinistic, but I have learnt to rejoice in and pray for all my Arminian brethren, whom I see the Lord blesses in the call and conversion of sinners; and I often stand humbled before them, when I see their zeal and activity so far exceed my own. If the Lord Jesus pleases to bless the preaching of any to the call and conversion of men, I may be sure, that however in some points of doctrine we may differ, in the two fundamentals we approximate, I hope we are beginning more to do so; and while in love and the spirit of meekness we desire to come within the divine sphere of attraction, to be one in Christ, all bitterness and wrath, and hard thoughts and hard speeches, will be put away from us as becometh saints.

In the scriptures much is plain to the meanest capacity; and the best and surest way to the discovery of what may appear more obscure, is truly to hold fast what we are sure is God's word, and humbly trust and pray that where we are otherwise minded, that God will reveal this unto us, making darkness light, and opening our understanding that we may understand the scripture.

When I look into the world, and round the world, I often tremble at the fewness of those who shall be saved, and every such view will leave me inexcusable, if I am not roused to more vigorous exertions for the spread of the everlasting Gospel.

I am conscious that the case of the dying malefactor was not more desperate than my own, nor the assertion of Paul more true in his feelings, and experience than in mine; that of sinners, I am chief; and I am persuaded if I believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, I shall be saved even as they; and that nothing but this conviction can give him the glory which is peculiarly his own, or secure to me boldness in the hour of death, and in the day of judgment.

Some, who are afraid the interests of religion would suffer from such abasing views of ourselves, have certainly never understood or entered into the meaning of our Lord's declaration, to whom much is forgiven they will love him much.

The reason why without faith it is impossible to please God is evident, as Paul argues, it is of faith that it might be of grace; and God can only be pleased when the glory of the sinner's salvation is wholly secured to the riches of his grace in Christ Jesus.

I was looking at the spots in the sun: the brightest bodies are not without them, nor any of the sons of Adam without moral spot and blemish, if we view them through the telescope of faith, and in the light darting from the Sun of righteousness.

'Walk before me, and be thou perfect,' is what God requires of every rational creature, and he *can* neither require nor *accept* of any thing less. Who then in his sight can be just? none, no not one. To know this is the beginning of wisdom. To be ignorant of it, is to live and die as the fool dieth. I may be sure I know nothing as I ought to know, if I have not learnt to despair of myself before the holy God. When I despair of myself, and all I am, have and can do, it behoves me to inquire, if yet there may be hope. It is the glory of the gospel of Christ satisfactorily to resolve this inquiry.

Ordination.

Ordained in Harford, Pa. on Wednesday the 12th inst. by the Susquehanna Presby-

tery, the Rev. William Chamberlain as a missionary to the Natives of America, who is soon to be on his way under the direction of the Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions, to the S. W. part of the U. S. The solemn and interesting services were performed in the following order: The Rev. Manassa M. York, of Wysox made the introductory prayer; the Rev. Joseph Wood of Windsor, N. Y. preached an appropriate sermon from Mark xvi. 15. "Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature"—the Rev. Ebenezer Kingsbury of Hartford made the consecrating prayer; the Rev. Manassa M. York gave the charge; the Rev. Oliver Hill of Lawsville gave the right hand of fellowship; and the Rev. Hutchins Taylor, a missionary, made the concluding prayer.

OBITUARY.

Died—At Paris, N. Y. on the 7th Oct. the Rev. Eliphalet Steele, senior pastor of the Church in that place, aged 73 years, in the 43rd year of his ministry. He was born in West Hartford, Conn. July 6, 1742. Was early designed by his parents, and by his own hopes and profession, to the sacred ministry. He was graduated at New-Haven College in 1764. From this time to his settlement in the ministry, he met with much embarrassment for the want of health. It however pleased God to open a door for his stated labors in Egremont, Mass. where he was ordained 1770. He commenced with favorable prospects, and in twenty-four years closed with entire discouragement. At Paris, the scene was reversed. He commenced with not the most promising aspect; but succeeded in beholding much of the pleasure of the Lord prosper in his hands. He was installed July 15, 1795. Here he witnessed three revivals of religion. From the fruit of these revivals, 175 persons were added to the church. Besides this number, there were other frequent additions, which rendered the number of professions during his ministry at Paris 273. As he drew near his departure, his faith dispelled every cloud. He often expressed his desire to meet the final summons. As he felt the cold hand of death he smiled and triumphed. He exclaimed, "I am comfortably dying—death has no sting"—and thus calmly fell asleep in Jesus.

NOTICE.

The adjourned meeting of the Auxiliary Bible Society of the City and County of New Haven, will be holden at the Court House on Tuesday evening next, at 7 o'clock.

N. W. TAYLOR, Secy.